

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title as follows:

ai Gripping And Vacuum End Effector For Transferring Articles

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 10 as follows:

Qr As shown in Figure 7, often it is necessary to relocate or reposition the container C in order to have the required clearance for the end effector 20. Piercing point ~~34~~ 40 pierces the sidewall of the container C. Next, the robot arm R lifts and repositions the container as shown by the arrow M to create the required clearance. It is important that the end effector be able to lift the container C as such containers often times deform the cardboard sheets S that separate the layers on the pallet of containers. If the end effector simply applies a substantially vertical force to the container, the container is likely to break before moving. By piercing the container wall, the end effector can lift and draw the container to a predetermined position.